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National
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Area Briefs

June 2, 1978

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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 78085, 2 JUNE 1978.4

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1. ARGENTINA: THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED ALFREDO SOFIA, A PRO-COMMUNIST HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS, WHOSE ARREST LAST WEEK WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO WARN DOMESTIC CRITICS NOT TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN DURING THE WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT THAT BEGAN ON 1 JUNE. INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY HAS ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY THE ARREST ON THE GROUND THAT SOFIA--WHO HAS BEEN PUBLISHING INFORMATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND MISSING PERSONS--IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAMPHLET THAT SCURRILOUSLY ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT. THE TIMING OF THE DETENTION REFLECTS THE DILEMMA OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY OFFICIALS WHO ARE TRYING TO PREVENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS DURING THE SOCCER TOURNAMENT WHILE NOT DOING FURTHER DAMAGE TO ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE.

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